

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Alcohol-Related Vehicle Death Rate
Justification	Approximately 2.2 million crashes in the U.S. involved alcohol in 1999. Approximately 41 percent of traffic fatalities are the result of drinking and driving. Almost 17,000 people die from alcohol-related crashes each year. Alcohol-related traffic crashes remain the single greatest cause of death among youth and young adults.
Definition	Number of vehicle deaths in which at least one driver, pedestrian, or cyclist had been drinking (Blood Alcohol Concentration >0.00) per 1000 population
Numerator	Annual number alcohol-related vehicle deaths
Denominator	Total resident population for same calendar year
Data Sources	Number of alcohol-related vehicle deaths from the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation, (numerator). Population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator).
Frequency	Annual
Geographic Levels	National, State, and County
Demographic Categories	Age by Gender (of persons killed)
Strengths	Data on fatal traffic crashes have been systematically collected by NHTSA for many years in every state (though states vary in the number of years in which they have participated in FARS).
Limitations	<p>While considerable effort has been made to obtain the BAC values for all drivers involved in fatal crashes, these data are not complete. Therefore, NHTSA has estimated driver BAC for cases missing data.</p> <p>The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these deaths occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and counties that have low numbers of annual vehicular deaths, especially when used for demographic subgroups.</p>